

WRC and the  
NBC Network

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PROGRAM Bob Considine

DATE April 23, 1961 6:15 P.M.

BOB CONSIDINE: "And one London wit says, 'the honeymoon's over before Kennedy has even had time to take his hat off.' — GHALI Continuing in the world survey, correspondent Paul (Galil?) said from Paris, the Cuban failure has inflicted a hard blow to American prestige in the eyes of the French public. For the French today, the responsibility for the failure lies mostly on the President, and on the CIA. And so it goes.

"A confusing curtain of censorship shrouds the full story of what exactly took place, and what is planned as a follow-up. Reasoned guesses must replace hard facts. No one quite knows for example, just how many Cubans took part in the landings, though 750 would be a fair estimate. No one knows how many men Castro was able to throw against them, but it would seem that it wasn't very many, considering the superiority of their fire power....

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"In his blistering reply to President Kennedy's tough note of recent date, Premier Khrushchev used such terms as 'crime which has revolted the world,' 'U.S. gangsterism,' 'the invasion was financed, transported and master-minded by the United States,' and it has been incontrovertibly established that we were responsible. Well, in light of the fact that there have been no categorical denials from Washington, backed up with chapter and verse documentation, we must assume that somebody down there knew what was going on, and did what he could to help the rebels. These are matters that come under the wing of our CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, whose operations are a great deal more secretive than those of say, the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"About the only thing the public knows about the CIA is that it is headed by Allen Dulles. Unlike most government department heads, Dulles is seldom if ever called before Congressional committees. His budget requests--and they are considerable--are promptly met. He was President Kennedy's second public appointment--the first being the renewal of J. Edgar Hoover's stewardship of the FBI. Assuming that somebody had to give the word to the Cuban rebels that the time was ripe for them to strike, that somebody must have been Dulles. And if it was, the information had been received from trusted CIA agents inside Cuba. It seems unthinkable, and unbelievable that the President was not kept informed. His general